

May 5, 2006

Several very large demonstrations are expected in Athens May 4-7, as a result of the European Social Forum, an anti-globalization coalition, currently meeting at Hellenikon. A major gathering is expected to march to the U.S. Embassy the afternoon of Saturday, May 6. Self-proclaimed anarchists have also planned demonstrations for Saturday. These are likely to begin in Monastiraki and the Plaka, and may converge with the demonstration headed for the Embassy. Clearly, these activities are likely to result in road closings, and disruption of traffic and public transportation.

Although the Embassy has no information regarding planned acts of violence, we wish to remind American citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. For this reason, the Embassy advises all Americans to exercise caution in the affected areas of the city and to be aware of the potential for sudden changes in the security situation in connection with these events.

For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web site at travel.state.gov where the current Worldwide Caution, Public Announcements, and Travel Warnings can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

For up-to-date information on current security conditions, Americans may also contact the U.S. Embassy in Athens or Consulate General in Thessaloniki at the numbers below. Please pass this information on to other Americans.

U.S. Embassy Athens American Citizen Services Section Tel: (210) 720-2418, 720-2419, 720-2420 Fax: (210) 725-3025

American Consulate General Thessaloniki Tel: 2310-242-905/6/7, ext. 104 or 0

In case of an emergency when the Embassy or Consulate General is closed, an American in Greece can call (210) 729-4444, and ask to speak to a consular officer.

American Embassy Athens. Greece